

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's statement that claims 5-6, 8, 10-11, and 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten.

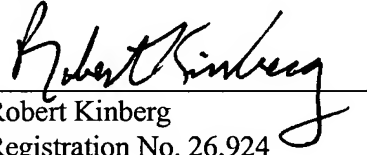
Claim 5 has been amended to be the sole independent claim. Although original claim 5 depended from claim 1 through claim 3, it is not believed that the subject matter of claim 3 is critical to the allowability of claim 5. Likewise, the last recited feature of claim 1 is also not believed to be important to the allowability of claim 5. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 5 is in condition for allowance. The remaining claims all depend directly or indirectly from claim 5 and thus are allowable.

Method claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as improperly depending from an apparatus claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as the Examiner has not cited any authority that would prohibit these claims. The MPEP states that "[t]he fact that the independent and dependent claims are in different statutory classes does not, in itself, render the latter improper." MPEP §608.01(n), p. 600-80. Furthermore, in § 2173.05(r), the MPEP explains that the Board in *Ex parte Porter* held that a claim reciting a step of utilizing, similar to the utilizing steps in present claims 17-19, was not indefinite under § 112. 25 USPQ2d 1144 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992). Accordingly, claims 17-19 are submitted to be proper dependent claims.

As it is believed that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

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Respectfully submitted,



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